

SCOTT N. SCHOOLS (SCBN 9990)
United States Attorney

W. DOUGLAS SPRAGUE (CSBN 202121)
Chief, Oakland Division

H. H. (SHASHI) KEWALRAMANI (TXSBN 796879)
Assistant United States Attorney

ADAM LOWRY
Law Clerk

1301 Clay Street, Suite 340S
Oakland, California 94612
Telephone: (510) 637-3680
Facsimile: (510) 637-3724
Email: Adam.C.Lowry@usdoj.gov

Attorneys for Plaintiff

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
OAKLAND DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	No. CR 07-00384 WDB
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	PLEA AGREEMENT
)	
KENNETH BRANCHE,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

I, Kenneth Branche, and the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California (hereafter "the government") enter into this written plea agreement (the "Agreement") pursuant to Rules 11(c)(1)(A) and 11(c)(1)(B) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure:

The Defendant's Promises

1. I agree to plead guilty to the sole count of the captioned information charging me with theft of government money, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 641. I agree that the elements of the offense and the maximum penalties are as follows: (1) the defendant knowingly received, concealed, and retained money; (2) the money belonged to the United States; (3) the defendant

PLEA AGREEMENT
CR 07-00384 WDB

1 knew that the money had been converted from the United States; and (4) the defendant intended
2 to possess the money for his own use and gain.

- | | | | |
|---|----|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 3 | a. | Maximum prison sentence | 1 year |
| 4 | b. | Maximum fine | \$100,000 |
| 5 | c. | Maximum supervised release term | 1 year |
| 6 | d. | Mandatory special assessment | \$25 |
| 7 | e. | Restitution | \$2,000 |

8 2. I agree that I am guilty of the offense to which I will plead guilty, and I agree that
9 the following facts are true:

10 On September 19, 2005, I filed an application with the Federal Emergency Management
11 Agency ("FEMA"), an agency of the United States, to obtain funds made available to victims of
12 Hurricane Katrina. In that application, I provided a New Orleans address for a home that I had
13 never resided in, and falsely claimed damages to that home in order to obtain \$2,000.00 in
14 hurricane relief funds. I used the monies for my own personal use and gain.

15 3. I agree to give up all rights that I would have if I chose to proceed to trial,
16 including the rights to a jury trial with the assistance of an attorney; to confront and cross-
17 examine government witnesses; to remain silent or testify; to move to suppress evidence or raise
18 any other Fourth or Fifth Amendment claims; to any further discovery from the government and
19 to future DNA testing of physical evidence in the government's possession; and to pursue any
20 affirmative defenses and present evidence.

21 4. I agree to give up my right to appeal my conviction, the judgment, and orders of
22 the Court. I also agree to waive any right I may have to appeal any aspect of my sentence,
23 including any orders relating to forfeiture and/or restitution.

24 5. I agree not to file any collateral attack on my conviction or sentence, including a
25 petition under 28 U.S.C. §2255, at any time in the future after I am sentenced, except for a claim
26 that my constitutional right to the effective assistance of counsel was violated

27 6. I agree not to ask the Court to withdraw my guilty plea at any time after it is
28 entered.

7. I agree that the Court will calculate my sentencing range under the Sentencing Guidelines. I understand that the Court, while not bound to apply the Guidelines, must consult those Guidelines and take them into account when sentencing. I agree that regardless of the sentence that the Court imposes on me, I will not be entitled, nor will I ask, to withdraw my guilty plea. I also agree that the Sentencing Guidelines range will be calculated as follows and that I will not ask for any other adjustment to or reduction in the offense level or for a downward departure from the Guidelines range:

a.	Base Offense Level, U.S.S.G. § 2B1.1	6
b.	Acceptance of responsibility: (If I meet the requirements of U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1)	<u>-2</u>
c.	Adjusted offense level	4

I agree that a sentence within the applicable Guideline range is reasonable and that I will not seek a sentence below the applicable Guideline range. I agree that, regardless of any other provision in this agreement, the government may and will provide to the Court and the Probation Office all information relevant to the charged offense or the sentencing decision. I also agree that the Court is not bound by the Sentencing Guidelines calculations above, the Court may conclude that a higher guideline range applies to me, and, if it does, I will not be entitled, nor will I ask, to withdraw my guilty plea.

8. I agree that the court may order and I will pay restitution. I agree that I will make a good faith effort to pay any fine, forfeiture or restitution I am ordered to pay. Before or after sentencing, I will, upon request of the Court, the government, or the U.S. Probation Office, provide accurate and complete financial information, submit sworn statements and give depositions under oath concerning my assets and my ability to pay, surrender assets I obtained as a result of my crimes, and release funds and property under my control in order to pay any fine, forfeiture, or restitution. I agree to pay the special assessment at the time of sentencing.

9. I agree not to commit or attempt to commit any crimes before sentence is imposed or before I surrender to serve my sentence. I also agree not to violate the terms of my pretrial release (if any); intentionally provide false information to the Court, the Probation Office,

1 Pretrial Services, or the government; or fail to comply with any of the other promises I have
2 made in this Agreement. I agree that, if I fail to comply with any promises I have made in this
3 Agreement, then the government will be released from all of its promises in this agreement,
4 including those set forth in paragraphs 12 through 14 below, but I will not be released from my
5 guilty plea.

6 10. I agree that this Agreement contains all of the promises and agreements between
7 the government and me, and I will not claim otherwise in the future.

8 11. I agree that this Agreement binds the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern
9 District of California only, and does not bind any other federal, state, or local agency.

10 The Government's Promises

11 12. The government agrees to move to dismiss any open charges pending against the
12 defendant in the captioned information at the time of sentencing.

13 13. The government agrees not to file or seek any additional charges against the
14 defendant that could be filed as a result of the investigation that led to the captioned information.

15 14. The government agrees to recommend the Guidelines calculations set out above as
16 well as the joint sentencing recommendation set out below in paragraph 15.

17 Joint Sentencing Recommendation

18 15. The parties agree to jointly recommend the following sentence:

- 19 a. Twoyears probation;
20 b. Restitution in the amount of \$2,000.00 to be made to the Federal Emergency
21 Management Agency;
22 c. Payment of a \$1000.00 fine [or completion of community Service at the
23 Direction of the Probation Officer in lieu of payment of a fine];
24 d. Payment of the special assessment fee of \$25. I agree that I will pay this to the
25 Clerk of Court on the day I am sentenced.

26 The Defendant's Affirmations

27 16. I confirm that I have had adequate time to discuss this case, the evidence, and this
28 Agreement with my attorney, and that she has provided me with all the legal advice that I
requested.

1 17. I confirm that while I considered signing this Agreement, and at the time I signed
2 it, I was not under the influence of any alcohol, drug, or medicine.

3 18. I confirm that my decision to enter a guilty plea is made knowing the charges that
4 have been brought against me, any possible defenses, and the benefits and possible detriments of
5 proceeding to trial. I also confirm that my decision to plead guilty is made voluntarily, and no
6 one coerced or threatened me to enter into this agreement.

7
8
9 Dated: _____

KENNETH BRANCHE
Defendant

10
11 _____
12 SCOTT N. SCHOOLS
United States Attorney

13
14 Dated: _____

H.H. (SHASHI) KEWALRAMANI
Assistant United States Attorney

15
16
17 I have fully explained to my client all the rights that a criminal defendant has and all the
18 terms of this Agreement. In my opinion, my client understands all the terms of this Agreement
19 and all the rights he is giving up by pleading guilty, and, based on the information now known to
20 me, his decision to plead guilty is knowing and voluntary.

21
22 Dated: _____

JOYCE LEAVITT
Attorney for Defendant